

Kess, Quinn

From: Mark Czarnecki <m.czarnecki@snet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 5:11 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Cc: 'Johnson, Leslie L'
Subject: SB 103, comments for hearing

Attn: CT Transportation Committee.

RE: SB 103.

If possible. Please read my comments below at the public hearing.

My cycling friends have informed me that someone has proposed a law that would forbid cyclists from riding two abreast on public roads. Where would you draw the line here? Can two people walking on a road walk side by side? How about walking a dog on the road? Dogs tend to wander back and forth somewhat. Even while on a short leash.

From a practical standpoint, this law would prevent people from riding their bicycles in a group.

Having been a cyclist for the last 35 years, the topic of cyclists being in the way of motorists has come up fairly often. My response is the same every time. In my opinion, a cyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as any slower moving vehicle. A farm vehicle is a good example. We should have the right to use the road, but should be conscious when traffic backs up behind us. From my experience, most cyclist I know are conscious of the traffic around us and do our best to stay out of the way of the faster motorized vehicles.

Stopping cyclists from riding together in groups of any size is totally impractical. I tend to do the majority of my group riding with two or three other cyclists. Trading places at the front is an inherent part of the process and a big part of what makes the experience enjoyable. We do what we can to travel on the back roads and rarely slow up a car for more than five or ten seconds. The more competitive cyclists also take part in the larger group rides. Although the large groups do get in the way somewhat more, who should say we cannot do this as well.

As I understand the current law, we are not supposed to impede the flow of traffic. If there is really an issue, let's start with enforcing the current law as we do with the laws regarding speeding. Town and state police have the ability to pull over cyclists who impede traffic now. If they do so, then the abusers will be forced to take notice.

Thank you.

Mark Czarnecki
172 Flag Marsh Road
Guilford, CT 06437

CC: Leslie Johnson